

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 887

Dated 10 12 98

Despatched 12 12 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Medical Officers

Recording G.O., Public, stating that Govt. agrees with the Surgeon-General in considering that imposition of any additional clerical work on — on plague duty will detract from their value of their usefulness as —

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE. (1898)

CURRENT No. *1850*

From *The Public Health.*

Progs
Order

Recorded

No. 1440

Long
7/12/98
MA
7.12.98

Dated 30. 11. 1898

Received 2. 12. 1898

Registered 2. 12. 1898

Enclosures

Spare copies

Copy to Sanitary Commissioner

SUBJECT.

(Said not if etc. for 2. 12. 98)
Not Secretary
to H.

SPH
12.12.98

Stating that the Govt agrees with the Surgeon General that the imposition of any additional clerical work on the Medical officers performing plague duty will detract from the value of their usefulness as medical officers

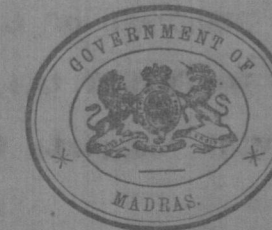
BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Public Department.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper:—

From the Surgeon-General, Madras, No. 476, dated 11th November 1898:—

I have the honour to state that the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, in paragraph 8 of his letter No. 1P.T., dated 30th September 1898 to the Plague Commissioner, suggested that "Medical officers performing plague duty in districts should be reminded that in the execution of their sanitary functions they should keep the Sanitary Commissioner ~~and~~ ^{of} inform of their whereabouts and of their efforts to stay the progress of the disease," and I was asked by the Plague Commissioner to issue instructions to Medical officers accordingly vide his proceedings No. 88, dated 7th October 1898.

On receipt of these proceedings I draw the attention of the Sanitary Commissioner to the draft ~~and~~ standing order (copy attached) which I had already proposed to issue on the subject and which I had referred to him for any suggestions or additions he wished to make and at the same time remarked that at a time when the plague is in full swing medical officers have more important duties to perform than writing a full account of "their efforts to stay the progress of the disease". I had already found in my office that Medical officers were writing unnecessarily long reports on each case of plague and the steps they were taking about it. In one instance the report on a single ^{case} of plague had run to four pages of foolscap.

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3. The Sanitary Commissioner in his reply No. 2635/S, dated 7th November 1896 (copy attached) considers it essential that all medical officers performing sanitary functions should keep him / reasonably informed of the progress of the disease in the areas in which they are required to fulfil the duties of District Sanitary Officers and with this view suggests the issue of the following standing order by me.

"District Medical and Sanitary Officers are reminded that it is their duty to keep the Sanitary Commissioner informed as to the incidence of plague in their districts, of their movements and of the sanitary measures adopted or advised by them in respect to this disease. This ruling applies also to all ordinary epidemics or outbreaks of special diseases, within the area under their sanitary charge."

"At the termination of an epidemic of cholera or plague the instructions given in para. 125B (30) of the Civil Medical Code should be obeyed. A copy of the report should be furnished to the office of the Surgeon-General."

"Attention is requested to para. 1241-4 Civil Medical Code."

4. Government will observe from the above that whenever there is any outbreak of a special disease or an ordinary epidemic in a District, the District Medical and Sanitary Officer or Civil Surgeon will be required to write out from time to time long reports giving a detailed account of the progress of the disease in each Taluk or locality and showing the sanitary measures adopted or advised by him in each instance to combat the same. On submission of these reports the Sanitary Commissioner will naturally not being fully conversant with local circumstances make his own comments which will elicit replies and explanations from the Medical officers concerned, so that a major portion of their time will be absorbed in the report-writing and correspondence to the detriment of their more legitimate and important duties which require their undivided time and attention. I confess, I fail to realize the necessity for or the utility of such detailed reports, as they cannot serve such useful purpose while they will necessarily prevent the Medical Officer from devoting that time and attention to his medical duties which

the importance of the occasion demands. As all orders the Sanitary Commissioner has to pass to ^{these} officers are required to be ~~submitted~~ ^{and} submitted issued by me under paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 435, Public dated the 17th April 1897, I cannot see what ~~is~~ ^{is} good object can be gained by his being furnished with such details. These officers are the responsible sanitary advisers to the Collectors of the Districts, Presidents of local Boards and Chairmen of municipalities who only receive suggestions from the Sanitary Commissioner.

5. Each District Medical and Sanitary Officer or Civil Surgeon is allotted certain duties on such occasions which he is expected and may be depended upon to carry out to the best of his ability and energy. It will, in my opinion, suffice for all practical purposes, if he reports that he has adopted or advised the ~~advised~~ adoption of necessary sanitary measures, and the inspections made from time to time by the ~~the~~ Sanitary Commissioner will place within his reach all ^{the} necessary details of such measures, if required by him. To overtax the Medical Officer, however, with heavy clerical duties and that too at a time when he can least spare his time for such purpose will be ~~detrimental~~ detrimental to the efficient performance of his ~~more~~ more important duties and defeat the object for which such ~~and~~ elaborate arrangements are made. In this connection I would invite the attention of Government to G.O. No. 237, Public, dated 14th February 1896, and to para. 22 of the note of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, recorded therein from which it will be seen that the elaboration of clerical work is to be discouraged as much as possible.

6. The Sanitary Commissioner while admitting (para. 2 of his letter) that District Medical and Sanitary Officers have extra strain thrown upon their energies says that Government has also provided extra means for meeting that strain by additions to the clerical staff of District Medical and Sanitary Officers. I cannot see the force of this argument as the reports of the kind required by him cannot be drawn up by clerks who are only useful in fair copying what is drafted by Medical and Sanitary

officers.

officers. His reference to the appointment of assistant Surgeons in 1883 is beside the question at issue. These assistants were chiefly sanctioned to enable District Medical and Sanitary Officers to tour in their districts with a view to inspect outlying hospitals and dispensaries, &c.

7. Under these ~~circumstances~~ circumstances, I consider that it will be sufficient if the requirements of paras. 1231-4 and para. 1258 (30) Civil Medical Code are complied with by District Medical and Sanitary Officers. The imposition of any additional clerical work on them will detract from the value of their usefulness as medical officers - a result which I am sure Government will not approve.

O. S. D. E.:-No. 1440, dated 30th November 1898.

The Government agrees with the Surgeon-General.

(True Extract)

For Chief Secretary.

30/11/98

To the Surgeon-General.

.. Plague Commissioner. ✓

.. Local and Municipal Dept.

P. C.

2-55-1020

Copy of letter from

Chs. 1259/10

NOTE FOR THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER
Chief Secretary

This is a reference to Govt.

The existing orders

require that on the completion of a campaign against plague, the medical officers concerned should draw up a report on the epidemic and the operation of the rules & submit it to Govt. through the D.M. & S.O., the Chairman of the Municipality, the Colls. & the Sanitary Comm. The rules referred to here apply only to unfassal municipalities. Consequently, G.O. No 829 P. of 17-8-98 requires a detailed report on each outbreak of plague from the Colls. This report has to be submitted to Govt. through the S.C. and the S.O.

3. Recently, the S.C. suggested to the Plague Comm. that "medical officers performing plague duty in districts should be reminded that in the execution of their Sanitary functions, they should keep the Sanitary Comm. fully informed of

Rule 30, page 62 of the
Indian Plague Regulation

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of their whereabouts, and of their efforts to stay the progress of the disease". The suggestion was referred to the S. G. for ~~issue~~ orders, but he objects to medical officers sending any detailed reports to the Sanitary Commr., as he does not want them to spend their time in writing long reports to the detriment of their proper medical duties, and as he thinks the S. C. can keep himself informed of the progress of the disease and of the steps taken to combat it, by personal inspection. But to enable the S. C. to know which part of the duty requires his personal attention, he must have a general idea of how things are managed in the whole Presidency and for this, he must be informed of the incidence of the disease & of "the sanitary measures" adopted to check it. The plague admin^r of a district is, however, in the hands of the Coll^r, & he can, no doubt, be trusted to see that the proper measures are promptly taken, and to consult the S. C. when

seem to be any great necessity for direct reports from district medical officers on plague duty ~~to~~ ^{to} the Sanitary Commr. The telegraphic & other reports promised in para 2 of G.O. 829 P. dt 17.8.98 will give the Sanitary Commr all the information he wants, except in regard to the movements of the medical officers, which seems unnecessary. The medical officers on sanitary duty in connection with plague do not move in accordance with a fixed programme & but ~~are~~ go from one place to another according to emergencies.

Long
15/10/98 That Medical Officers sh^d keep the Sanitary Commissioners informed of their whereabouts when Plague cases occur & send reports. But certainly, with Dr. King's enquiring mind, D. S. & M. Officers will find they have an enormous amount of writing to do if they have to keep the Sanitary Commissioners fully informed of their efforts to stay the progress of the disease.

As is the S. Comm^r at the end

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of an outbreak receive a full
account of it as shown required
by the Surgeon General's Standing Orders.
and that should I should say be
sufficient - Collection may be
considered quite able to see that
then Med. Officers carry out all the
Sanitary precautions fully laid
down in the Plague regulations &
Dr. King's instructions, and it hardly
seems necessary that Dr. King sh^d
be kept fully informed of the progress
of the efforts made to stay & decrease
until the full report comes in. From
the daily returns he knows the number
of cases occurring and can go at
once and in speech if he sees the
disease is not abating - I do not
see myself that much good will
be gained by making the Dr. S & M
Officers submit a diary of their
progress & that is really what Dr.
King is aiming at. I should say
Dr. King might be told that this
is sufficient if he gets information of the
whereabouts of the Dr. S & Med Officers
& a daily return of cases. & that
he is at liberty to call for special
reports in any particular instances

where such reports may seem
advisable - but that it is not
advisable to impose upon the Med.
Officers any thing like the duty
of submitting a continuous periodical
record of the progress of their efforts
to stay disease - The instructions
for meeting outbreaks are so clear
& detailed that Med. Officers
have only to follow them, which,
it may be presumed they do
under the Act Com^r's orders -

H. J. G.
17.

Sept 1871/28

Copy of letter from Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to The Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, No.476, dated 11th November 1898, through the Plague Commissioner.

"I have the honour to state that the Sanitary Commissioner Madras, in para 8 of his letter No.1 P T, dated 20th September 1898 to the Plague Commissioner suggested that "Medical officer performing plague duty in districts should be reminded that in the execution of their sanitary functions they should keep the Sanitary Commissioner informed of their whereabouts and of their efforts to stay the progress of the disease," and I was asked by the Plague Commissioner to issue instructions to Medical officers accordingly vide his Proceedings No.88, dated 7-10-98.

2. On receipt of these Proceedings, I drew the attention of the Sanitary Commissioner to the draft Standing order (copy attached) which I had already proposed to issue on the subject and which I had referred to him for any suggestions or additions he wished to make and at the same time remarked that at a time when the plague is in full swing medical officers have more important duties to perform than writing a full account of "their efforts to stay the progress of the disease." I had already found in my office that medical officers were writing unnecessarily long reports on each case of plague and the steps they were taking about it. In one instance the report on a single case of plague had run to four pages of foolscap.

3. The Sanitary Commissioner in his reply No.2635/S, dated 7th November 98 (Copy attached) considers it essential that all medical officers performing sanitary functions should keep him reasonably informed of the progress of the disease in the areas in which they are required to fulfill the duties of District Sanitary officers and with this view suggests the issue of the following standing order by me.

"District Medical and Sanitary Officers are reminded that it is their duty to keep the Sanitary Commissioner informed as to the incidence of plague in their districts, of their movement and of the Sanitary measures adopted or advised by them in res-

respect to this disease. This ruling applies also to all ordinary epidemics or outbreaks of special diseases, within the area under their Sanitary charge" "At the termination of an epidemic of Cholera or plague the instructions given in para 1258 (30) of the Civil

Medical Code should be obeyed. A copy of the report should be furnished to the office of the Surgeon General"

"Attention is requested to paras 1231-4 Civil Medical code."

4. Government will observe from the above that whenever there is any outbreak of a special disease or an ordinary epidemic in a district, The District Medical & Sanitary officer or Civil Surgeon will be required to write out from time to time long reports giving detailed account of the progress of the disease in each Taluk or locality and showing the sanitary measures adopted or advised by him in each instance to combat the same. On submission of these reports the Sanitary Commissioner will naturally not being fully conversant with local circumstances make his own comments which will elicit replies and explanations from the medical officers concerned, so that a major portion of their time will be absorbed in reports writing and correspondence to the detriment of their more legitimate and important duties which require their undivided time and attention. I confess I fail to realize the necessity for or the utility of such detailed reports, as they cannot serve much useful purpose while they will necessarily prevent the medical officer from devoting that time and attention to his medical duties which the importance of the occasion, demands. As all orders the Sanitary Commissioner has to pass to these officers are required to be submitted to and issued by me under paragraph 2 of G.O.No.435 Public dated the 17th April 1897, I cannot see what good object can be gained by his being furnished with such details. These officers are the responsible sanitary advisers to the Collectors of Districts, Presidents of Local Boards and Chairman of Municipalities who only receive suggestions from the Sanitary Commissioner.

5. Each District Medical and Sanitary Officer or Civil Surgeon is allotted certain duties on such occasions which he is expected and may be depended upon to carry out to the best of his

practical purposes if he reports that he has adopted or advised the adoption of necessary sanitary measures, and the inspections made from time to time by the Sanitary Commissioner will place within his reach all the necessary details of such measures, if required by him. To overtax the medical officer, however, with heavy clerical duties and that too at a time when he can least spare his time for such purpose will be detrimental to the efficient performance of his more important duties and defeat the object for which such elaborate arrangements are made. In this connection I would invite the attention of Government to G.O. No.227 Public, dated 14th February 96, and to para 22 of the note of the Director General Indian Medical Service recorded there in from which it will be seen that the elaboration of clerical work is to be discouraged as much as possible.

6. The Sanitary Commissioner while admitting (para 2 of his letter) that district medical and sanitary officers, have extra strain thrown upon their energies says that Government has also provided extra means for meeting that strain by additions to the clerical staff of District Medical and Sanitary officers. I cannot see the force of this argument as the reports of the kind required by him cannot be drawn up by clerks who are only useful in fair copying what is drafted by medical and sanitary officers. His reference to the appointment of Assistant Surgeons in 1883 is beside the question at issue. These assistants were chiefly sanctioned to enable District Medical & Sanitary Officers to tour in their districts with a view to inspect outlying hospitals and dispensaries, etc.

7. Under these circumstances, I consider that it will be sufficient if the requirements of paras 1231-4 and para 1258 (30) Civil medical code are complied with by District Medical and Sanitary Officers. The imposition of any additional clerical work on them will detract from the value of their usefulness as Medical officers-a result which I am sure Government will not approve."

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signed

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